

THE MAYOR'S COUP D'ETAT

COMMISSIONER SMITH REMOVED.

AND JAMES E. MORRISON SECRETLY APPOINTED AND SWORN IN ON TUE-DAY—DESPERATE EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF THE POLICE BOARD.

Mayor Cooper sent to Governor Robinson on Monday night for an order removing General Smith, president of the Police Board. The message was brought to the city by the Mayor's clerk on Tuesday, and on the same day James E. Morrison, the Mayor's private secretary, was appointed and sworn in as General Smith's successor. Mr. Morrison took possession of the office yesterday. General Smith is absent from the city.

THE GOVERNOR'S TARDY ACTION.

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The removal of Police Commissioner Smith occasioned a great deal of excitement about the city yesterday. It had been rumored for some days past that Mr. Smith would be removed, and this was generally believed to be the intention of Mayor Cooper whenever his removal should become necessary to obtain control of the Police Board for political purposes. The certificate of removal was sent to the Governor on the 5th of last month. On April, the certificates of Commissioner Erhardt and Commissioner Nichols were forwarded at the same time. The Governor promptly removed Mr. Nichols because he was a Tammany Sachem, and had no friends who could serve the Governor or Mr. Tilden. Commissioner Erhardt was not removed because his term of office had expired, and the Governor did not care to take the

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legal responsibility of approving Mayor Cooper's action in Mr. Ehrhardt's case. It was reported at that time that General Smith would be saved, because his removal might defeat the renomination of Governor Robinson. A reason was given by the Governor that he had not time to examine the papers. Three months that have elapsed since, however, have entirely disposed of that reason. Politicians have said that Mr. Smith would be removed because he refused to vote under the leadership of Commissioner MacLean, who immediately represented Mr. Tilden, but that the removal would be delayed as long as possible in order that Mr. Smith's friends might commit themselves to the renomination of Mr. Robinson. Local politicians say that the plain purpose of the Mayor in controlling the Police Board is to use its power on election day in the Tilden interest. The Board appoints the officials who count the votes deposited, and control the polling places. If it is said, the election inspectors and the police work together, as they can be made to work by the majority of the Police Board, a fair election in the city might be made impossible, and majorities might be affected as they were in 1868, when Mr. Tilden was Chairman of the Democratic State Committee.

THE MAYOR'S HASTE.

The Police Board, under the law, has to appoint

The Police Board, under the new law, has to select inspectors during August and Sept.

A resolution was passed some time ago naming August 15 to act on this matter. The next day, it is said, Colonel Tracy, the Mayor's chief clerk, was sent to Albany, where he held a long conference with Governor Robinson. Smith M. Weed was said to have arrived there on the same day, and his presence was noticed in the Albany newspapers. The plan to capture the Police Board is said to have been approved by Governor Robinson, and Smith M. Weed and Colonel Tracy returned to Albany this city. Commissioner Shearman immediately began his investigation which developed into the charges made against Commissioner Wheeler. The writ of prohibition was seriously interfered with the plans. On Monday night Mayor Cooper called on Mr. MacLean, who is said to represent Mr. Elden, and soon after Colonel Tracy was sent to Albany. He returned to the city on Tuesday afternoon with the certificate of removal of General Smith in his possession. Com-

missioner MacLean held a long consultation

The Mayor on the matter, and in the evening James E. Morrison, the Mayor's private secretary, was appointed and was secretly sworn in as the successor to General Smith. The movement was kept secret in order that no injunction or writ could be served on the Mayor before the new commissioner could get possession of his office.

General Smith went away from the city on Saturday to be absent some time on a vacation. This was known to the Mayor and his assistants, who, it is asserted, hoped to get possession of General Smith's office before he could take legal steps to prevent such action. The Mayor kept secret from his Anti-Taunmany associates the matter of the appointment until they heard it elsewhere. George H. Purser, Alderman Haughton and others, wanted Peter Bowe appointed, and were considerably displeased at the appointment of Mr. Morrison, as they said, had already been too greatly rewarded for his small services to the party. It was said, however, that Mr. Bowe might be appointed in place of Commissioner Wheeler if the Mayor should succeed in getting the latter removed.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Mayor and his clerks, Colonel Tracy and Commissioner Morrison, did not arrive at the City Hall until afternoon yesterday. Commissioner Morrison refused to say whether he had been appointed or not, and the Mayor also declined to answer any questions until late in the day. He then said that he had appointed Mr. Morrison. The office of private secretary to the Mayor, which had been previously

vate secretary was not filled, he said, and he
not say when it would be filled. Maurice J.

and W. S. Andrews are prominently mentioned for the places. Both are frequenters of the Mayor's office, and both do considerable outside work for Mr. Tilden and are thought to be equally entitled to the places. Mr. Andrews, it is said, may be appointed to succeed John J. O'Brien as Chief Clerk of the Election Bureau, providing the Mayor succeeds in removing Commissioner Wheeler. It is believed, however, that the Mayor will succeed in his purpose, as "no stone will be left unturned," said a personal associate of his yesterday, "to obtain control of the election

The law provides that the commissioner o

insulators representing the minority political party in the city shall have the naming of two inspectors of election for each election district. If Commissioner Wheeler should be removed, it is said a subcommittee of the city council will be appointed to recognize as representing that party. In that way he will name such inspectors as will please Mr. Tillamook and secure the purposes of the law. The inspectors for the other party are required by law "to be of different political faith," but it does not say they must represent the party in the majority. Mr. Tillamook has no doubt that this will be secured.

It is believed that Commissioner French will be removed, and the whole Board be put under the control of the city council.

THE REMOVAL PAPERS.

The following is a copy of the Mayor's letter to the governor removing General Smith and the Governor's certificate of removal:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, April 5, 1879.

I, Edward Cooper, Mayor of the City of New-York, do hereby certify that, in virtue of the authority conferred upon me by the Act of the Legislature of 1875, entitled "An Act to reorganize the local governments of the City of New-York," I have caused to be removed from the office of Commissioner of the Board of Aldermen, General Smith, and after a public hearing him, removed William F. Smith from the office of Commissioner of the Board of Aldermen.

The causes of removal are :

First—That under the Board of Police, said William F. Smith is a member, the government and police of the city of New Orleans have become lax and inefficient, the police force has deteriorated in efficiency, and discipline has been lost. That the police force has become demoralized, and that no satisfactory explanation thereof, or satisfactory excuse therefor, has been made by the said William F. Smith, exonerating either himself or said Board, from responsibility at New Orleans.

Second—That the Board of Police, of which the said William F. Smith is a member as aforesaid, has not ceased the streets of the city to be thoroughly cleaned from time to time, and kept thoroughly cleaned, and has